



USAID
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September 28, 2016

AMENDMENT TO INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION

TO: Dan Evans, LAB Environmental Officer

FROM: Joe Duncan, LAB/DD/DI

SUBJECT: Amendment to Initial Environmental Examination and Request for Categorical Exclusion for cooperative agreement: AID-CIO-A-10-00001, with NetHope.

Recommendation

That you sign the amendment to the Initial Environmental Examination and Request for Categorical Exclusion for cooperative agreement: AID-CIO-A-10-00001, with NetHope.

Approve ✓ Disapprove

Background

In June 2012, Teresa Bernhard, E3 Environmental Officer, approved a Categorical Exclusion for a cooperative agreement with NetHope, which amended the first IEE approved in 2010. The NetHope agreement is part of the Global Broadband and Innovations (GBI) Program approved in an AAD on September 27, 2010. This cooperative agreement was modified on October 14, 2014 by OAA to extend the Life of Project to September 29, 2020. This amendment to the Initial Environmental Examination and Request for Categorical Exclusion would extend the IEE approval period to September 29, 2020. Management of this program and cooperative agreement was transferred from E3 to the Center for Digital Development within USAID's Global Development Lab.

The scope of work for NetHope agreement has not changed and continues to build institutional capacity to assist developing countries reform their telecommunications policies and practices, and provides technical assistance to government ministries and regulators to strengthen common government responsibilities in the area of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), specifically in the telecommunications arena. The scope is a broad-based initiative aimed at improvement of the Agency's utilization of ICTs. The focus is leveraging ICTs in several key areas including: enhancing access to broadband Internet; supporting telecommunications-related legal and regulatory reforms; improving universal service funds/universal access funds (USFs/UAFs) administration; leveraging public-private partnerships; delivering program-focused value-added content and services; expanding and leveraging mobile networks, and supporting ICT-related capacity building.

The core focus areas of this award are:

1. ICT-enabled best practices associated with international socio-economic development;
2. Technical considerations and solution sets appropriate for embedding into USAID's development portfolio at USAID/Washington Program Offices and overseas Missions;
3. Highly-specialized telecommunications-related program activities, both in USAID/Washington based program offices and overseas Missions; and
4. Mobile Applications-related initiatives at USAID/Washington program offices and overseas Missions.

Attachment(s):

Tab 1: Initial Environmental Examination Categorical Exclusion, June 2012

Tab 2: Contract Modification extending agreement to September 2020

Tab 3: Amended IEE

**AMENDMENT to the INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION
and/or
REQUEST FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

PROGRAM/ACTIVITY DATE

Program/Project Title:	NetHope Global Broadband Initiative
Proqam/Activity:	AID-CIO-A-10-00001
Project Country(ies)	Global
Funding Period:	September 29, 2020
Life of Activity Funding:	\$25,056,367

IEE Amendment Yes X No If yes, date of original IEE: August 25, 2010

IEE Prepared by: Joe Duncan, LAB/DD/DI

Date: 9/29/2016

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION RECOMMENDED:

Categorical Exclusion X
Positive Determination
Deferral

Negative Determination
Negative Determination w/ Conditions

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDED THRESHOLD DECISION

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are increasingly valuable in support of programmatic development objectives in all substantive sectors, including economic growth, health, education, humanitarian assistance and democracy and governance. Building on past achievements and lessons learned, the NetHope cooperative agreement is the next-generation strategy for supporting USAID's ICT project needs.

None of the activities anticipated under the NetHope agreement are designed or expected to result in actions that may directly affect the environment including the construction of any facilities. Therefore a **Categorical Exclusion** is recommended as all project activities fall into one or more classes of actions which may qualify for a Categorical Exclusion, pursuant to 22 CFR Section 216.2(c)(2), for which an Initial Environmental Examination, or an Environmental Assessment is not required. Any new activities introduced into the project which are substantially different from those presented in this Initial Environmental Examination will require submission of an amended Request for Categorical Exclusion (RCE) or Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) to the appropriate Bureau Environmental Officer (BEO). No such activity will proceed until the RCE or IEE has been review and approved by the appropriate BEO.

If there are any activities under the NetHope agreement associated with constructing physical ICT networks or similar facilities, those activities will require preparation of a separate Initial Environmental Examination (IEE). No activity falling under this requirement will be implemented unless an Environmental Threshold Decision, as defined in 22 CFR 216.3(a)(2), has been reached for that activity and documented in a Request for Categorical Exclusion (RCE), Initial Environmental Examination (IEE), or Environmental Assessment (EA) duly signed by the appropriate Bureau Environmental Officer (BEO) and a signed copy delivered to the NetHope AOR. If the potential impacts are significant, resulting in a Positive Determination, an activity specific scoping exercise and preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA), consistent with 22 CFR 216.3 will be undertaken.

Recommended By:


Joe Duncan, AOR

Date:

9/30/16


Cleared By:


Priya Jaisinghani, Director, CDD

Date:

9/29/16

Concurrence:


Daniel Evans
Lab Environmental Officer

Date:

9/30/2016